

The Coquille Valley Sentinel

THE PAPER THAT'S LIKE A LETTER FROM HOME

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COQUILLE, COOS COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1943.

\$2.00 THE YEAR

Council Proceedings Were Enlivened Monday Evening

Sarcasm, pathos, recitation of poetry and a supplication on bended knees, turned an otherwise dry and matter-of-fact council session Monday evening into a half hour of light-heartedness and humor, as Leo J. Cary appealed to the city fathers to refuse the prayer of four petitioners for the vacation of a portion of Fairview street on Knowlton Heights.

The petition had been signed by Councilmen Stark and Burr, Dr. T. De La Rhue and Dr. R. F. Milne. The strip asked to be vacated was that from Knowlton avenue north to the edge of the Dutch John creek valley, about 175 feet, and south from Knowlton avenue 250 feet, between Dr. Milne's and Mr. Burr's home properties. North of Knowlton avenue that portion of Fairview street lies between the Dr. De La Rhue and Dr. Stark homes.

Mr. Cary is his appeal to turn down the application stated that he was unalterably opposed to vacating any street or portion of a street in Coquille; that when he served as councilman 30 years ago that he had fought for making the streets wider than the 80 or 80 feet so many of them are and pointed to the fact that on several prominent residential district streets signs have been posted forbidding parking on but one side of those streets.

Mr. Cary owns quite a tract in the Dutch John bottom, below the street in question and visualized a day when a winding road on an easy grade would lead from the heights down into the valley.

An exchange of semi-caustic remarks followed.

B. W. Dunn To Be H. S. Principal Also

Burton W. Dunn, local school superintendent, in addition to his present duties, will take over those of the high school principal beginning with the second semester January 17, according to action taken by the Coquille school board at a special meeting held in the Washington school last week.

Superintendent Dunn will be provided with a full time office secretary who will have charge of all permanent, report, and attendance records.

Two candidates for the vacancy caused by the resignation of Clarence Osika, high school principal, were found available, but since Superintendent Dunn has announced that he is retiring from the Coquille superintendency effective at the close of this school year next June, the board thought it wise to consolidate the offices for the balance of this school year. In this manner it will be possible for the incoming superintendent who succeeds Mr. Dunn to select his own principal rather than find a ready made one in office when he takes over.

Miss Madeline McKeown, law graduate from the University of Oregon in 1938, has been secured by Superintendent Dunn to handle the routine duties in the general school office.

First V-Mail Christmas Greeting Message Received Here

A most unique overseas V-mail Christmas greeting card, was that received by Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Kuenzli of this city, from her nephew, Allen B. Bell of Seattle. It was mailed in October from "somewhere in Sicily," and if the drawing was his own it showed unusual cleverness with its speeding truck loaded with packages and a tag attached to the largest, bearing his aunt's name and address.

The R. A. Eastons Continue To Enjoy Living

On a Christmas card to the Sentinel force, wishing a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, R. A. Easton writes from Ashland where they have resided for several years, "Wife and I are reasonably well and continue to enjoy life and living."

Mr. Easton was formerly East Fork correspondent for the Sentinel.

Ten Day Holiday For The Coquille Schools

Coquille schools which closed at 3:30 Wednesday afternoon for the Christmas holiday season will reopen Monday morning, Jan. 3.

Fourth War Loan Drive Starts Jan. 18

The Fourth War Loan Drive, which is scheduled to start Jan. 18 and end Feb. 15, has a quota of \$14,000,000, set by the Treasury Department.

The bond purchases for the first three drives, in 1942 and '43, totalled \$50,384,000,000, while the quotas for the three aggregated \$37,000,000,000, or 35 per cent more was raised than was asked.

The first drive was oversubscribed by \$3,907,000,000, the second by \$5,533,000,000, and the third by \$3,944,000,000.

Of the more than fifty billions worth of bonds bought in the first three drives, \$10,260,000,000 was purchased by individuals, partnerships and personal trust accounts. Insurance companies took \$6,727,000,000 worth and banks subscribed for \$13,428,000,000. Corporations invested \$14,858,000,000 in the U. S. securities, while the balance was taken by state and local governments, Federal agencies, dealers and brokers.

Air-WAC Committee

Lt. Aida Hendricks, WAC officer of the Portland Army Air Base was in Coquille Thursday to appoint a civilian committee to aid in recruiting for the Air Corps. Recruiting by branch has been opened to women just recently and Lt. Hendricks says there are many new opportunities open to women who are eligible to serve with the United States Army Air Corps.

Mrs. Jack Dolan has accepted the chairmanship, and other members of her committee are Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Leslie, R. L. Stewart, F. W. Martin and H. A. Young. The committee members will have information to give to interested women between 20 and 49 years of age.

Four Stars In Council Chamber

Two flags, with four stars thereon, hanging back of the mayor's desk in the city hall, indicate that four of the city's official family are now in Uncle Sam's fighting forces and, if the members of the fire department who have gone were included, the number would be largely increased.

The four for whom the stars are shown are City Health Officer Marshall Kennedy, City Attorney Tallant Greenough, Councilmen Everett Seeley and David E. Biegger.

Red Devils Will Be Ready For Season Opener, Jan. 7

It is uncertain yet whether there will be any practice games for the Red Devils basketball squad next week or not. If the high school furnace arrives, as was expected so that it could be installed during the holidays there will be no games. If it does not arrive, Coach Leslie anticipates one or more games with the Bandon Coast Guard quintet.

In last Friday evening's game with the Guardsmen, the Red Devils lost, 50-28, after leading at the end of the first half, 23 to 20.

The local quint is coming along in good shape, although DeNoma has been under the weather the past week and unable to play or practice, but Spike believes the boys will give a good account of themselves when the season opens Jan. 17.

Wins D. A. R. Coquille Good Citizenship Award

Winifred Van Fleet has been chosen by the C. H. S. senior class to receive the Daughters of the American Revolution good citizenship award for Coquille. She is now one of the group of high school students in the state from whom one will be chosen to receive the state award and a trip east.

Will Talk To Lions About The Tule Lake Affair

Mr. and Mrs. Clark Fensler and son, formerly of Myrtle Point, came over from Klamath Falls Wednesday to spend Christmas at the Theo. L. Clinton home at Johnson Mill. Mr. Fensler is attending the Lions club session this noon and will talk to the Lions on the Tule Lake insurrection.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Berg drove to Eugene on Monday to meet their daughters, Patricia and Martha, who were returning home for their Christmas vacation. The girls will be here until Jan. 5. They are attending for their second year the Dominican school at San Rafael. Both are seniors in the high school.

Coos County Lands Leased For Drilling To Jergens Co.

That prospecting for gas and oil in Coos county is to be thorough and conclusive during the coming months, is evident by the entrance to the local field of the Jergens Oil Company of Long Beach, Calif., to which organization has been given a lease covering 5824.69 acres of county-owned land, according to L. D. Felsheim, county judge, acting for the Coos County Court.

The lease covers county lands in Townships 27, 28 and 29, and the first drilling operations are expected to be in the Bandon area, although a thorough geophysical survey of the entire structure is first to be made. A. T. Jergens, president of the Jergens Oil Company, is known in southwestern Oregon. He owns a lodge on Rogue river near Illaha, and is one of the largest property owners in Curry county, having acquired the lands formerly owned by the Macleay Estate.

The Jergens company is one of the major oil producers on the Pacific coast, having some 40 rigs in operation at the present time. Entrance to the Oregon field in Coos county follows closely the starting of operations by the Phillips Petroleum Company of Oklahoma, who are driving a well in the Davis Slough area on the Westport arch, and who have already reached a depth of between three and four thousand feet.

That the Jergens company plans early drilling is signified by the fact that a stipulation in the county lease calls for drilling operations to be under way within two years, otherwise the property under lease will be quit-claimed back to the county. Actual operations are expected within a matter of months.

As an inducement to get further prospecting under way, the Coos County Court has made a low rental rate of 10 cents per acre per year, payable in advance, to the Jergens company. This will give the county a modest return on its lands pending operations. In the event gas or oil is developed the county will receive royalties of one-eighth part of the oil produced, or one-eighth of the net proceeds from the sale of gas from the leased lands.

The Jergens drilling will be on an entirely different arch from that of the Phillips interests. Success or failure of the one has no positive bearing on the other, according to geologists, as each arch in the county has separate and distinct possibilities.

Mrs. Hersey Brought Home Tuesday

Mrs. Emily Hersey returned home Tuesday by train, accompanied by her daughters, Mrs. Julius Rubie and Mrs. Geo. Hartley, of Murtaugh, Ida. She was attended by two doctors when she reached Portland, one a specialist from there, and the other brought from Beaverton by Ben Hersey, her son, who with James Hersey, her grandson, met her at the train with a wheel chair. The attack of illness, which occurred en route to Portland from Murtaugh, where Mrs. Hersey had been visiting her daughter, occurred following a seeming recovery from a cold. It was not a stroke but was more a nervous condition brought on following a clogged artery. Rest and time will be required for her recovery. Mrs. Hersey's wish was to get home and now she is relaxed and sleeping well and her doctor says she is improved slightly. Mrs. Hartley will remain here with her mother until her recovery.

Mrs. Harry Oerding Of The Wacs Here For A Few Days

Mrs. Harry Oerding, sergeant in the Wacs and who is stationed at Seattle, came in Tuesday evening to spend Christmas and a few days with Mr. Oerding and friends here. She has been with the WAC branch of the Army for nearly a year. Like so many people here, and everywhere are doing, she was suffering from an attack of the flu when she came. She must report back for duty on New Year's eve.

High School Students Buy A Jeep In Three Weeks

For the three weeks period ending Dec. 10, the students of Coquille High purchased \$1200 worth of War Savings Bonds and Stamps which, is the amount needed to buy a jeep for the Army.

The Tanker 'Coquille' Launching Was An Impressive Sight

Mayor O. L. Wood, who with 20 to 25 others from Coquille and the valley, attended the launching of the tanker, Coquille, at the Kaiser shipyard near Portland last Wednesday, says that the ceremonies attending the launching and christening of the vessel were most impressive and it gave a wonderful thrill as the vessel moved slowly and majestically down the ways into the water, without a shiver or a slip of any kind.

All the employees who work on a vessel are given time off to attend the launching and there was quite a crowd present.

The "Coquille" is considerable of a boat, having a 67-foot beam and being 526 feet and six inches in length. That means it would extend from the highway and Second street intersection at the bank corner well into the Community Building. It is a 17,700-ton vessel, and has a carrying capacity of 80 million gallons of high-test gasoline, besides an upper deck storage space which will hold 12,000 barrels of oil.

Following the launching a fine lunch was served in one of the cafes on the grounds, with half of a large lobster in each portion. The visitors were guests of the Kaiser company at the luncheon and a fine program of music and short talks was presented by the shipyard's orchestra and personnel.

All Coquille residents who went up to Portland for the occasion were unanimous in their praise for the way in which the entire proceedings were carried out with clock-like precision.

Yes, Fishing Is Poor In The Coquille!

A week or so ago a Portland daily printed a dispatch from Marshfield that fishing for steelheads in the Coquille was extremely poor, that the river was muddy, and gave the impression that fishermen should shun the central Coos stream.

The item caused quite a laugh to Orvin and George Gant and Roger Stewart, for just a day or two before they were down the river from here, between one and four o'clock, and landed 13 steelheads at a gross weight of 117 pounds. And at that 14 got away, due to breakage of line, poles, etc. Roger started with over 100 feet of line and came back with 18 feet while Orvin's pole had been reduced to a mere stub. Poor fishing, indeed!

Christmas Exchange Party At Rotary

A Christmas exchange was the feature of the Rotary Club luncheon at the hotel Wednesday and the various attempts at versifying created considerable merriment.

Lou Hollimon had the cigars passed around in honor of his son who recently became a father.

Rotarian guests present were Fred McClellan, of Myrtle Point, and Ed Hughes, of Grants Pass. Other guests were Sgt. Cliff Gulseth, who made a brief response to his introduction, and Brick Leslie and Oscar Hendrix.

Ernie Pagel Is Now Constable For Coquille District

Donald A. Burch having resigned as constable for Coquille Justice of the Peace and Constable District No. 3, the county court on Monday appointed Ernest Pagel to fill the vacancy and set his bond at \$1000. Ernie was formerly a member of the Coquille police force.

Jack Cooper Buys Home From Jack Reddy, Saturday

Jack Reddy, who formerly resided here and is now employed at a shipyard near Portland, was a Coquille visitor last Saturday.

Mr. Reddy came down to complete the deal for the sale of his house, corner of 8th and Heath streets, to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cooper, who will occupy it soon.

Keith Leslie, who has been a regular Finnegan, "in agin, out again, gone agin, Finnegan" since he moved to Oswego near Portland, came in Tuesday evening and will return home Friday. 'Brick' says he won't Finnegan again until about Jan. 10.

A Merrier 1944 Christmas Our Wish

"Merry Christmas" may not be the most appropriate greeting for this holiday season, with boys from here, there and everywhere, scattered all over the world and threatened with the danger of never returning to their home land, so the Sentinel will wish to all its readers and friends the hope that Christmas in 1944 will be a merrier one and that the international Hun and Jap gangsters will all have been relegated to the oblivion which they so richly deserve.

Four Fire Alarms The Past Week

The fire department has been called out four times since our last report.

Last Thursday evening it was called to the Tom Detlefsen ranch home, between Norway and the river, where a lard-rendering operation was in progress in the kitchen. The grease caught fire and the resulting damage is estimated at around \$350. The electric range was completely ruined, the buckling of the top of the range probably being due to water thrown in the attempt to extinguish the blaze before the department and its chemical arrived.

Friday morning the call was to a car which was burning on the highway just this side of Johnson Mill, and which was practically destroyed.

When the boys answered in response to the alarm the pumper truck was driven out of the fire hall quickly, but the cold chemical truck engine would not start and had to be shoved from the hall by hand and down the slight decline on Second street before it finally began to work.

Sunday evening the call was to the Elmore Peterson place, near Seventh and Heath, where a burning flue did no damage, and later that evening the call was to the White Cottage on Front street where an over-heated pipe started a blaze but it was extinguished without damage to the room or contents.

40th Installation For Masonic Treasurer

For L. H. Hazard the installation of officers ceremony of Chadwick Lodge No. 68, A. F. & A. M. on St. Johns Day, next Monday, the 27th, will have more than usual significance for it will be the fortieth successive time he has been installed as treasurer of the lodge. The first time was on Dec. 27, 1904, and he has served in the office for 39 years.

Most of the lodge records were destroyed in the fire of 1918 when the lodge hall, then where the Sentinel building now stands, burned but the cash book he kept was in the safe and he still has it as well as the original bank deposit book.

F. C. Trues Coming Back To Coquille

After 24 years of waiting on the public at their store at Broadbent, Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. True are again going to make their home in Coquille and take a long, greatly deserved rest. They have purchased the Mrs. E. E. Johnson property at the west end of Fourth street and expect to move into it around the first of the year.

They have made a deal with C. M. Bonnicksen, who has been ranching recently, for the store building, house and business at Broadbent.

Sgt. Carl Johnson To Be Home On a Three-Day Leave

Sergeant Carl Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Johnson and who is also the ex-printer devil in the Sentinel office, phoned from Geiger Field in Washington last evening that he has a three days' leave and expects to be home this evening.

His coming will enable his father, as his last initiation performance as master of the lodge, to confer the Master Masons degree on Carl at a special communication of Chadwick Lodge at 7:30 Friday evening.

Twenty Will Be Heard Jan. 6 For Naturalization

There will be no more sessions of the Coos county circuit court this year, the next motion day being set for Tuesday, Jan. 4.

Thursday, Jan. 6, has been set as Naturalization day when approximately 20 will be present for the hearing on their applications to become citizens of the United States.

Two Coos Pioneer Ladies Of 1870 Have Gone Beyond

Mrs. Elizabeth Delcina Gehlke

Another of Coos county's earlier pioneers, Mrs. Elizabeth Delcina Gehlke, wife of Peter F. Gehlke, passed away at her home near Coquille, last Friday at the age of 87 years and three days.

The funeral services, conducted by the Church of Christ, Scientist, of which she was a member, were held at the Schroeder Bros. Mortuaries here at two o'clock Monday afternoon. Interment was in I. O. O. F. cemetery, No. 2.

Mrs. Gehlke was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. J. Perkins, and was born in Salem, Ore., Dec. 14, 1856. The family came to Coos county and settled in the Coquille valley in 1872.

Besides her husband she is survived by a sister in Bandon, Mrs. Maryette Morse; a son by a former marriage, Fred Von Pegert; two grandsons, Lawton and Sheldon Von Pegert, and one great grandchild.

Mrs. Gehlke was held in high esteem by all who knew her; her cheery smile and kind words brightened many a day. As a young woman she expressed the true pioneer spirit; she never wearied in helping others and gave as well, her warm sympathy and entire understanding. Those who knew her, count her friendship among those treasures that cannot be destroyed.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Stauff

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Stauff, mother of Charles Stauff, Coos county treasurer, passed away in Ojai, California, on Monday, Dec. 20, at the home of her son, James A. Stauff.

Mrs. Stauff was the widow of Alexander Stauff, and they were pioneers of Coos county, residing on their homestead at Arago and later at Empire. Mr. Stauff was well known in Coos county as he served as Assessor from 1876 to 1878 and as County Clerk from 1878 to 1884.

Mrs. Stauff was born in Missouri on Oct. 24, 1856, a daughter of Raleigh and Eliza Jane Isaacs. With her parents she came to California, and the family later moved to Coos county in 1869. She was married to Alexander Stauff on Jan. 1, 1873, at the J. Henry Schroeder home in Arago. Mr. Stauff passed away in Marshfield on April 3, 1910.

Three children, Margaret Viola, Edward and Ernest, have preceded her in death. She is survived by three sons, two daughters, four grand children and three great grand children. Sons are: Charles F. Stauff, of Coquille; William H. Stauff and James A. Stauff, of Ojai; daughters: Mrs. Alice J. Hall, of Norwalk, Calif., and Mrs. May R. Catral, of Ojai.

Mrs. Stauff suffered a broken hip in a fall in her home on Nov. 20, which resulted in her death. Her two daughters and two of her sons have been with her constantly during her illness.

Mrs. Stauff was a member of the Episcopal Church and of the Coos-Curry Pioneer Association.

Interment will be in the I. O. O. F. cemetery in Marshfield beside her husband. The body is expected to arrive in Marshfield on Friday morning by train, accompanied by her two sons, William and James. Funeral services will be held at the Thuerwacher Home at two o'clock Friday afternoon. Friends are asked to please omit flowers.

The Biggest Christmas Yet At The Coquille Postoffice

While the records as to sales in the local postoffice, during the Christmas rush, have not yet been checked it is the opinion in there that both incoming and outgoing mail was the largest this month in the office's history. The rush started ten days earlier than usual and a couple of evenings the crew had to work after supper to get the mail distributed. Yesterday was an unusually heavy day.

Duck Hunter Hits His Big Toe With Shot Sunday

The only accident reported in this section during the open season for ducks and geese, which closes today, happened last Sunday when Aldo Marca, who lives on the Joe Nilsen place near Riverton, accidentally discharged his gun, some of the shots hitting his toes. He came to the Coquille Hospital to have the wounds dressed.